

MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # **187-2014**

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: June 3, 2014

SUBJECT: Operation Medicine Cabinet

The purpose of this Letter to Commission (LTC) is to respectfully inform you that the Miami Beach Coalition for a Safe, Healthy & Drug-Free Community, in collaboration with the City of Miami Beach Fire-Rescue Department, will be holding its pharmaceutical drug collection and disposal campaign, "Operation Medicine Cabinet" on the below dates and times with a collection being held at each of the City's four fire stations. The prescription medication disposal will take place at The Village-WestCare's Medical Department located at 400 N.E. 31st Street, Miami, FL 33137 and the purpose of this campaign is to stem youth abuse of pharmaceuticals and reduce drug induced medical emergencies, while helping to keep our water supply free of pollution.

Attached please see the press release that provides additional campaign details and an analysis of recent trends by the National Drug Control Office. Operation Medicine Cabinet is offered as a free community service for people of all ages who are encouraged to bring unwanted medicines for disposal in order to keep our community safe, healthy and drug-free.

This collection event will take place at:

Round 1:

Friday, June 6 from 12:30pm to 6:30pm at Fire Station 2 located at 2300 Pine Tree Drive
Saturday, June 7 from 12:30pm to 6:30pm at Fire Station 1 located at 1051 Jefferson Ave.

Round 2:

Friday, June 20 from 12:30pm to 6:30pm at Fire Station 4 located at 6880 Indian Creek Dr.
Sunday, June 22 from 12:30pm to 6:30pm at Fire Station 3 located at 5303 Collins Ave.

Should you have additional questions please contact Fire Chief Virgil Fernandez.

JLM/VF/FB

Attachment

c: Virgil Fernandez, Fire Chief
Francois Betancourt, Division Chief

RECEIVED
2014 JUN -3 PM 3:15
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE



Miami Beach Coalition for a Safe, Healthy & Drug-Free Community

PRESS RELEASE

April 23, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



For more information contact:

Marina B. Aviles
Miami Beach Coalition Project Coordinator
169 E. Flagler St. #1300
Miami, FL 33131
786-368-5810

Operation Medicine Cabinet

The Miami Beach Coalition, in collaboration with the Miami Beach Fire Department, will be holding its pharmaceutical drug collection and disposal program campaign, "Operation Medicine Cabinet" in June – the 1st round will be the week of June 1-8, 2014 with collection being at the 2 Miami Beach fire stations in the north and south ends, and will be repeated at the other 2 remaining Miami Beach fire stations in the north and south ends prior to June 30th, and the disposal will be at The Village-WestCare's Medical Department located at 400 N.E. 31st St. Miami, FL. 33137 to stem youth abuse of pharmaceuticals and reduce drug induced medical emergencies, while helping to keep our water supply free of pollution.

Currently there are only a few places for collection of household medical wastes, especially for controlled substances in our county and some areas have no drop off sites at all. By law, controlled substances, which are medications such as: Vicodin®, Hyrocodone®, Ritalin and other prescription drugs may only be possessed by the prescriptive owner and a sworn deputy or law enforcement officer. This makes proper disposal difficult and confusing for many.

The Miami Beach Coalition has been working with The Village-WestCare's Medical Clinic, to conduct this drug waste program, which has been successfully used by law enforcement agencies statewide. "Operation Medicine Cabinet" has been shown in other counties to help meet the community's need to remove dangerous drugs from households, reduce misuse and the potential for drugs to end up in our water supply.

According to an analysis of recent trends by the National Drug Control Office, "Next to marijuana, the most common illegal drugs teens are using to get high are prescription medications." When asked why, teens responded with a common myth, that they believe the use of prescription drugs is safer and more responsible than using street drugs.

Where do teens find these drugs? Nearly half report that they get them from a relative, a parent or grandparent, right out of the medicine cabinet. Expired medications are the cause of many medical emergencies for other age groups too, especially seniors. One of the most common causes of poisoning among seniors is accidental medication overdose. Statistics show that while adults over 65 years of age represent only 13 percent of the total population, they consume more than 30 percent of all prescribed medications and 40 percent of all over-the-counter medications.

Another report shows that accidental overdoses are up nearly 5 times over the last 10 years, with nearly all poison-related deaths in the country are attributable to drugs, especially prescription drugs. "That's why it's important to remove all unused medications right away" says, Marina Aviles, Project Coordinator for the Miami Beach Coalition. "Removing the medication reduces easy access to medications for misuse, increases awareness and the ability to keep track of current medications."

In addition to drug abuse, there's confusion about how and where to dispose of medications. Flushing drugs down the drain is not recommended because we now know it can lead to water pollution. It's also best not to throw it in the landfill unless precaution steps are taken, to avoid leaching by others or the mistaken consumption by someone's pet. One such method requires mixing drugs in kitty litter then wrapping the bottles in duct tape prior to disposal.

So, many old and unused medications accumulate in our homes. Operation Medicine Cabinet requires no such measures and provides a method of safe disposal. Operation Medicine Cabinet is offered as a free community service for people of all ages who are encouraged to bring unwanted medicines for disposal in order to keep our community safe, healthy, and drug-free.

This collection event will take place at:

Fire stations 1-4 throughout the month of June, 2014:

Round 1:

Friday, June, 6: 2300 Pine Tree Dr., Miami Beach, FL 33140 12:30-6:30 pm

Saturday, June, 7: 1051 Jefferson Avenue, Miami Beach, FL 33139 12:30-6:30 pm

Round 2:

Friday, June, 20: 6880 Indian Creek Dr., Miami Beach, FL 33141 12:30-6:30 pm

Sunday, June, 22: 5303 Collins Avenue, Miami Beach, FL 33139 12:30-6:30 pm

The disposal will take place at:

The Village-West Care located at 400 N.E. 31st St. Miami, FL. 33137

Please note***

Leave medications in original or sealed containers.

Needles or liquid medications will not be accepted.

Illegal drugs will not be accepted.

Drop-off is completely anonymous & needs to be done by an adult 18 years or older.

CLEAN OUT YOUR MEDICINE CABINET!!

**SAFELY DISPOSE OF EXPIRED OR UNWANTED
PRESCRIPTION DRUGS TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY
SAFE, HEALTHY & DRUG-FREE!!**



Miami Beach Coalition

MBC in partnership with the Miami Beach Fire Dept. is collecting unused or expired prescription drug medication for safe disposal. Needles or liquid medications will not be accepted.

Must be 21+ in order to participate.

Rx Drug drop-off is completely anonymous and is available at the following locations:

Round 1:

Friday, June, 6: 2300 Pine Tree Dr., Miami Beach, FL 33140 12:30 PM-6:30 PM

Saturday, June, 7: 1051 Jefferson Avenue, Miami Beach, FL 33139 12:30 PM-6:30 PM

Round 2:

Friday, June, 20: 6880 Indian Creek Dr., Miami Beach, FL 33141 12:30 PM-6:30 PM

Sunday, June, 22: 5303 Collins Avenue, Miami Beach, FL 33139 12:30 PM-6:30 PM

